

Message Text

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21

ACTION ORM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3527

UNCLAS BANGKOK 22869

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, LA

SUBJECT: MANPOWER NEEDS FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 256596

1. FULLY AGREE THAT THERE WILL BE A GREAT DEAL OF RESIDUAL WORK IN THE HANDLING OF REFUGEES FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE AND THAT WE WILL REQUIRE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FACILITIES TO CARRY OUT THESE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES. AT PRESENT, IN ADDITION TO PERSONNEL DETAILED FROM THE EMBASSY OR THE COUNSULATES, THE REFUGEE OPERATIONS OFFICE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: JOHN A. HUXTABLE, AN FSRU WITH AID ASSIGNED HERE ON TDY; HUGH O'NEILL, JOHN W. TUCKER AND MAC THOMPSON ALL OF WHOM HAVE FSRL APPOINTMENTS WITH AID AND HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED ON TDY TO WORK ON THIS PROGRAM; AND WILLIAM SAGE AND WARREN HOFFECKER WHO HAVE BEEN HIRED LOCALLY.
 2. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS THE STAFF HAS BEEN HEADED BY FSO-4 THOR KUNIHOLM, BUT THIS OFFICER HAS JUST BEEN REASSIGNED AND WILL BE LEAVING BANGKOK WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.
 3. WE CANNOT BE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF OUR FUTURE PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS SINCE THESE WILL BE AFFECTED BY DECISIONS STILL TO BE MADE IN WASHINGTON ON OUR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PAROLE NUMBERS TO HANDLE VIETNAMESE AND KHMER REFUGEES. EVEN IF THIS REQUEST IS DISAPPROVED, WE WOULD WISH TO RETAIN SIX
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OFFICERS, AT LEAST FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

THIS WOULD INCLUDE A REPLACEMENT FOR KUNIHOLM TO COORDINATE THE PROGRAM AND THOMPSON, SAGE, TUCKER, O'NEILL AND HOFFECKER.

4. OUR FIRST CHOICE TO TAKE OVER THE COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE JACK HUXTABLE, WHO IS ALREADY HERE AND WHO KNOWS THE REFUGEE SITUATION THOROUGHLY; HOWEVER, HIS TDY HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTENDED ONCE AND HE IS WANTED FOR ONWARD ASSIGNMENT IN THE AID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUREAU. WE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY WISH TO INTERFERE WITH THE ONWARD ASSIGNMENT OF THIS EXCELLENT OFFICER. IF EXTENDING HIS TDY UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR WOULD IN ANY WAY ENDANGER THIS ASSIGNMENT, THEN WE WOULD WANT TO LET HUXTABLE GO ON NOVEMBER 27 WHEN HIS CURRENT PERIOD OF TDY ENDS.

5. IF WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT A FURTHER EXTENSION WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE HUXTABLE'S ASSIGNMENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ASSIGNED FROM WASHINGTON SOMEONE TO HEAD OUR REFUGEE OPERATIONS OFFICE WHO KNOWS THE PROGRAM AND CAN INSURE CONTINUITY IN OUR WORK ON PAROLING REFUGEES, FINDING SPONSORS FOR THE LAO AND HANDLING THE FLOOD OF INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS PROGRAM. IT OCCURS TO US THAT LIONEL ROSENBLATT, WHO RECENTLY VISITED BANGKOK, WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CHOICE TO FILL IN BEHIND HUXTABLE GIVEN HIS WORK WITH IATF AND ORM. OUR STAFF HAS ALREADY SUFFERED FROM FREQUENT PERSONNEL SHIFTS HOWEVER AND WE WOULD WANT TO BE SURE THAT ROSENBLATT WAS AVAILABLE TO US FOR A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR REFUGEE OPERATIONS. AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, AND DEPENDING ON HOW THE PROGRAM GOES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO START REDUCING THE TDY AID PERSONNEL.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.
WHITEHOUSE

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